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NAB LITTLE CREEK
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PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM REMOVAL ACTION UPDATES AT SITE 11 AND SITE 16 NAB LITTLE CREEK VA

3/19/1998
NAB LITTLE CREEK

INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM

Site 11 School of Music Plating Shop
Site 16 Pole #425 PCB Capacitor Spill
Removal Action Update

NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS BASE, LITTLE CREEK

INTRODUCTION

The Installation Restoration (IR) Program is an ongoing Department of Defense program conducted at military bases nationwide to identify and address potential human health and environmental impacts as the result of past waste disposal practices. This fact sheet is one in a series, informing interested citizens about the environmental investigations and cleanup actions being conducted under the IR Program at the Naval Amphibious Base (NAB) Little Creek.

This fact sheet is an update to two previous fact sheets "Site 11, Removal Action, Former School of Music Plating Shop" and "Site 16, Removal Action, Pole #425-PCB Capacitor Spill."

SITE 11 PROFILE

The School of Music Plating Shop was located behind the School of Music, Building 3602 (see figure). During its period of operation from 1964 to 1974, the Plating Shop used a variety of heavy metal plating baths, cyanide, lacquer, and lacquer stripper. The site consisted of an underground concrete tank used to neutralize the solutions from the shop and clay piping running from the tank to a storm drain. Sampling revealed high concentrations of heavy metals like chromium, cadmium, and lead in the tank.

SITE 11 REMOVAL ACTION

Because the tank posed a potential release hazard, the Navy removed the tank, the piping, and the surrounding soil. The Removal Action was completed by IT Corporation and split into two phases. The first phase began November 6, 1995. First, the top two feet of unaffected soil was removed and stockpiled offsite for use as fill in the second phase. Then the piping and the tank were removed. The piping was evacuated before it was broken into manageable pieces. No liquid was spilled during removal of the piping. To remove the tank, the top was broken off to remove the contents of the tank. Then, the empty tank and two feet of soil below and surrounding the tank were removed. Finally, another three feet of soil was excavated below the piping. Operations outside of the plating shop were completed using an excavator. Hand tools were used to remove the piping and soil inside of the shop because of the small work area. The last task was to collect random samples of the soil remaining in the open pit and the trenches from the excavation. These soil samples were sent to an offsite lab to ensure that remediation goals were achieved. Phase I was complete by November 17, 1995

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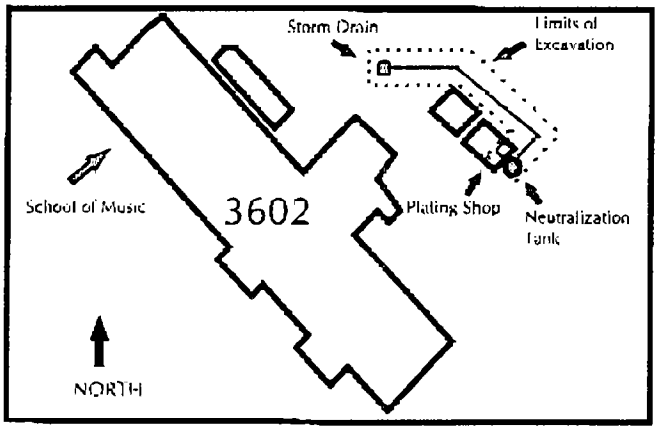
The analytical results confirmed that the soil remaining met regulatory cleanup standards. Phase II began January 22, 1996. IT Corp backfilled the open pit and trenches. They also replaced the necessary piping and flooring inside the former plating shop. The area was reseeded in March. Both phases of the Removal Action were completed without safety accidents and no further releases to the environment.

The Final Closeout Report for the Removal Action was completed by September 1996. No changes were made from the Draft Final that had been submitted for regulatory and public review. Two rounds of groundwater monitoring were completed in May and December of 1996 to ensure that the removal action had been successful. The results from both rounds indicated that the metals present in the groundwater posed no risk to human health or the environment. However, two organic solvents which had been previously detected were still present. Further investigations to determine the extent and source of the organic contaminants was recommended in the Final Groundwater Monitoring Report, completed February 1998.



Former School of Music Plating Shop, Site 11: The limits of excavated soil are shown by the dotted lines

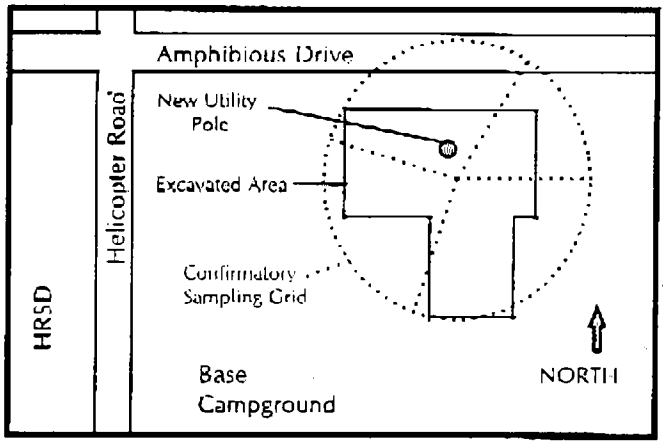
SITE 16 PROFILE

Site 16 is located on Amphibious Drive, approximately 300 feet east of the intersection with Helicopter Road (see figure). The base campground is to the south and the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) Sewage Treatment Plant is to the west. As a result of a lightning strike in the early 1980s, the capacitor on pole #425 leaked less than 5 gallons of dielectric fluid containing Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs). The affected area was approximately 1080 square feet surrounding the pole.

SITE 16 REMOVAL ACTION

A Corrective Measures Plan approved by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was prepared to evaluate cleanup options. Removal of the affected soil and disposal in a Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) approved landfill was selected as the best cleanup option. The Navy Public Works Center (PWC) Norfolk began the Removal Action March 13, 1995. Heavy construction equipment was used to excavate some of the soil, but hand tools were used to remove much of the soil because of numerous underground utilities. The excavated soil, water used to clean the tools, and other contaminated debris (utility pole, fencing, trees, framing) were transported to the approved landfill. A total of 60 tons of debris was disposed.

The area of excavation was slightly greater than specified in the plans and slightly deeper than the planned two feet. Removal of the soil was expected to take three weeks. However, due to inclement weather and dense vegetation, excavation was completed in the last week of May. After excavation was completed, random samples of the remaining soil were taken to confirm that cleanup levels had been attained. All samples taken met the regulatory standard of 10 parts per million PCBs in the soil.



Pole #425 PCB Release, Site 16: The area of excavation as well as the location of the new utility pole is shown. After excavation was completed, four confirmatory samples were taken from the areas shown with dotted lines.

The removal action complied with all applicable environmental federal, state, and local regulations as well as health and safety requirements. There were no adverse incidents, injuries, or indications of airborne contamination leaving the site during the removal.

Resotration of the site included backfilling and grading the excavated area. The area was reseeded with grass and the utility pole was replaced. Site restoration was completed by the first week of July 1995.

Groundwater monitoring was not required at Site 16 because of the immobile nature of PCBs and previous sampling results that showed the PCBs did not leach to groundwater. Unlike the metal contaminants at Site 11, which could have impacted the groundwater beneath the site and therefore required monitoring, PCBs are largely insoluble and immobile. PCBs have a tendency to adsorb onto soil and generally do not dissolve into percolating rainwater to leach to groundwater.

The Draft Final Closeout Report for the Removal Action was submitted for regulatory and public review in June, 1996. It was finalized with no comments or changes in September, 1996. The Closeout Report documents the implementation of all appropriate and required response actions through successful completion of the Removal Action and attainment of cleanup standards. No further response or action is required. Therefore, as of September, 1996, Site 16 officially attained "No Further Response Action Planned" (NFRAP) status. Site 16 is the first Installation Restoration Site to be officially closed.

CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Information Repositories contain all documents and information pertaining to the IR Program and are available for the public to review. The four repositories are at:

☞NAB Little Creek Library
Building 3004/ 8th St.
464-7691

☞Bayside Area Library
936 Independence Blvd.
VA Beach, VA 23455
460-7518

☞Little Creek Library
7853 Tarpon Place
Norfolk, VA 23518
441-1751

☞Central Library
4100 Virginia Beach Blvd
VA Beach, VA 23452
431-3100